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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.  
§ 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3731**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Katsumi Sasaki

**Examiner:** Vy Q. Bui

**Serial No:** 10/029,627

**Art Unit:** 3731

**Filed:** December 21, 2001

**Docket:** 15174

**For:** SURGICAL OPERATION  
INSTRUMENT

**Dated:** December 20, 2004

**Conf. No.:** 5083

*(Handwritten signature)*  
Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action dated September 21, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following amendments and remarks:

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 20, 2004

*Thomas Spinelli*  
Thomas Spinelli